

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Black Sea)	25X1	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Port of Batumi		DATE DISTR.	16 April 1954
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1. ship was joined eight miles from the harbor entrance to Batumi. 25X1
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25X1 by a small guard vessel which resembled a German aircraft-rescue vessel. The ship had a 20 to 30 mm gun on the foredeck, a short mast with a yardarm aft of the bridge, and a navy crew of eight to ten men. Its speed was less than 14 knots. A pilot in civilian clothing accompanied by a soldier, a naval lieutenant, a female doctor, and a broker boarded informant's ship from a harbor tugboat near the Batumi leading buoy. The soldier and the lieutenant took positions on the wings of the bridge after sealing the binoculars, cameras, and the radio equipment. At 1600 hours on 17 September 1953, ship was taken into harbor, and it was berthed at the oil pier by the first-class pilot. Echo soundings taken while entering the harbor indicated a depth of between 28 and 29 feet. The only ship seen in harbor was a white, single-stack passenger steamer of about 18,000 GRT with Soviet Army units aboard.
2. The oil pier, which could accommodate only two ships at a time, was separated from the sea by a high wall. The wall supported a stone pavement, a grass strip, and eight oil pipes which conveyed the fuel to the various filling points. Four of the pipes were six inches in diameter, and the other four were 12 inches in diameter. Two wooden stages projected from the oil pier into the harbor basin where the tankers were moored. These stages supported the eight oil pipes, which were fitted with sockets for shipboard connections. No pumps were seen. The pipelines between the pier and the gate to the harbor area were above ground, and further on the pipelines were underground. ship took on 4,000 tons 25X1 of gas oil, 2,500 tons of diesel fuel, and 5,000 tons of gasoline, from 1800 hours on 17 September to noon on 20 September 1953. The long loading time was caused by the arrival of three Soviet tankers, which moored at the second filling stage. The Soviet tankers came from Odessa, and each of them displaced between 14,000 and 15,000 tons. They took on full cargo within 12 hours.
3. Except for three guard vessels, there were no naval vessels in port. The guard vessels left port at noon daily for a position near the leading buoy. They practiced firing at a target towed by a harbor tugboat.

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